

Iowa Judicial Branch

Decisions

About Our Courts

Our Judges

News

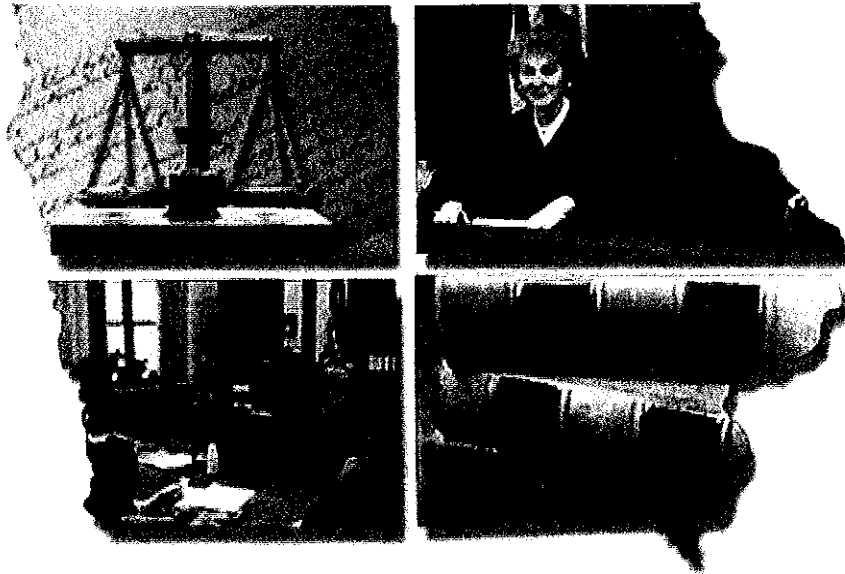
**Frequently
Asked Questions**

**Families
and Children**

**Attorney
Regulation**

Court Rules

**Court
Administration**



Contents

NEW **State of the Judiciary Message**
NEW **EDMS RFP**



\$2.4 Million Operating Budget Shortfall: Factors

- Health insurance increase
- Insufficient salary adjustment funds
- Insufficient funds for base salary costs
- No funds for new deferred comp state match program
- No funds for new sick leave conversion program
- No funds for senior judge health insurance program
- Insufficient funds for workers compensation expenses



Cuts to Balance FY 2001 Operating Budget

- Used funds appropriated for new staff and programs
- Cut furniture and equipment
- Cut office supplies
- Communications
- Postage and printing
- Implemented higher vacancy factor
- Cut travel for judges and staff
- Cut Fall education conferences for judges and staff
- Reduced the use of on call referees (contractual positions)



Iowa Judicial Branch

Electronic Links with State Agencies

The Iowa Judicial Branch has worked hand-in-hand with a number of state agencies and other government offices to improve a wide range of services through the use of electronic interfaces. The interfaces are links that enable information to be sent from one computer database to another. Currently, there are eleven interfaces, either under development or operating.

Data Warehouse

The Judicial Branch plays a key role in the new data warehouse, a program operated by the Division of Juvenile and Justice Planning. Each month the Judicial Branch sends highly detailed information about criminal and juvenile cases to the warehouse. In addition to the case information, the warehouse will eventually store information from a number of criminal and juvenile justice agencies. With this vast amount of information so readily accessible, state analysts will be better equipped to predict trends and to evaluate the effectiveness of policy decisions.

State and Federal Case Registry (SCR and FCR)

A national registry for state-provided extracts of IV-D child support cases and also Non IV-D child support orders that are entered on or modified on or after October 1, 1998. The FCR provides information about the location of persons in IV-D cases and persons involved in other authorized child support actions. This interface is fully functional between the Judicial Branch and the Department of Human Services.

State Disbursement Unit (SDU)

Public law 104-103 (August, 1996) provides that all child support paid via income withholding by employers be submitted to one location in a state. The SDU interface was created as

a joint effort between the Judicial Branch and the Department of Human Services to process all payments from one location. The SDU allows employers to submit payment to one location, process the payments to the recipients, and post the receipt transactions to the appropriate payment record. The SDU was fully functional on October 1, 1999.

Case Criminal History (CCH)

An interface (in test) between ICIS and DPS (Department of Public Safety). Dispositions on selected criminal charges are sent from the ICIS system to DPS where they are placed on the Criminal History record. Current case types selected are Aggravated, Serious, Felony and OWI. Disposition records are selected by case type and specific charge code for transfer to DPS.

Electronic Citation Component (ECCO)

An interface (in test) between ICIS and DOT. Traffic citations written on the Uniform Citation via Laptop computer by officers in the field are electronically transferred via the Iowa System (DPS) to the appropriate county Clerk of Court office. The citations are automatically loaded into the ICIS database. Records are audited by clerk's staff as required. Saves on data entry by clerk's office staff. Once the disposition data has been entered on a charge, that information will flow back to the agency that the citation originated from.

ICONN (Iowa Conviction Notification Network)

An interface between ICIS and DOT. Unpaid, overdue traffic citation records which are going under suspension are automatically transferred to DOT for posting to the appropriate Driver License record. Once the traffic citation fines have been paid the Suspension Withdrawal Notice is automatically sent to DOT for posting to the appropriate Driver License record. Traffic citation conviction notices are also automatically sent from ICIS to DOT for posting to the appropriate Driver License record.

Iowa Corrections Network (ICONLite)

An interface (in development) between ICIS and DOC (Department of Corrections). As cases are setup the specific case data is transferred to the DOC. As dispositions are entered on charges these dispositions will be sent to DOC. Reopening a case will cause further data to flow to DOC.

***Centralized Collections Unit (CCU) Interface.**

The CCU project is a cooperative effort between the Judicial Branch and Department of Revenue and Finance (DRF) to collect delinquent court fines, fees, other related court costs, and victim restitution. In 1995, the Judicial Branch signed a 28E agreement to electronically transfer court delinquent debt information from ICIS counties to DRF for collections. The primary intent of the project is to further enhance the Judicial Branch's efforts to collect delinquent debt obligations through the use of ICIS technology and other specialized collection services provided by the DRF Centralized Collections Unit. Since the

inception of the project, approximately \$11.1 million of outstanding court debt has been collected.

***Income Tax Offset Interface.**

The Income Tax Offset program is an interface between the Judicial Branch and Department of Revenue and Finance (DRF) used to collect delinquent fines and fees. ICIS transfers case information to the DRF for collections, and then DRF initiates procedures to hold tax refunds of debtors. During calendar year 1998, the program collected more than \$2.2 million from nearly 17,000 offsets.

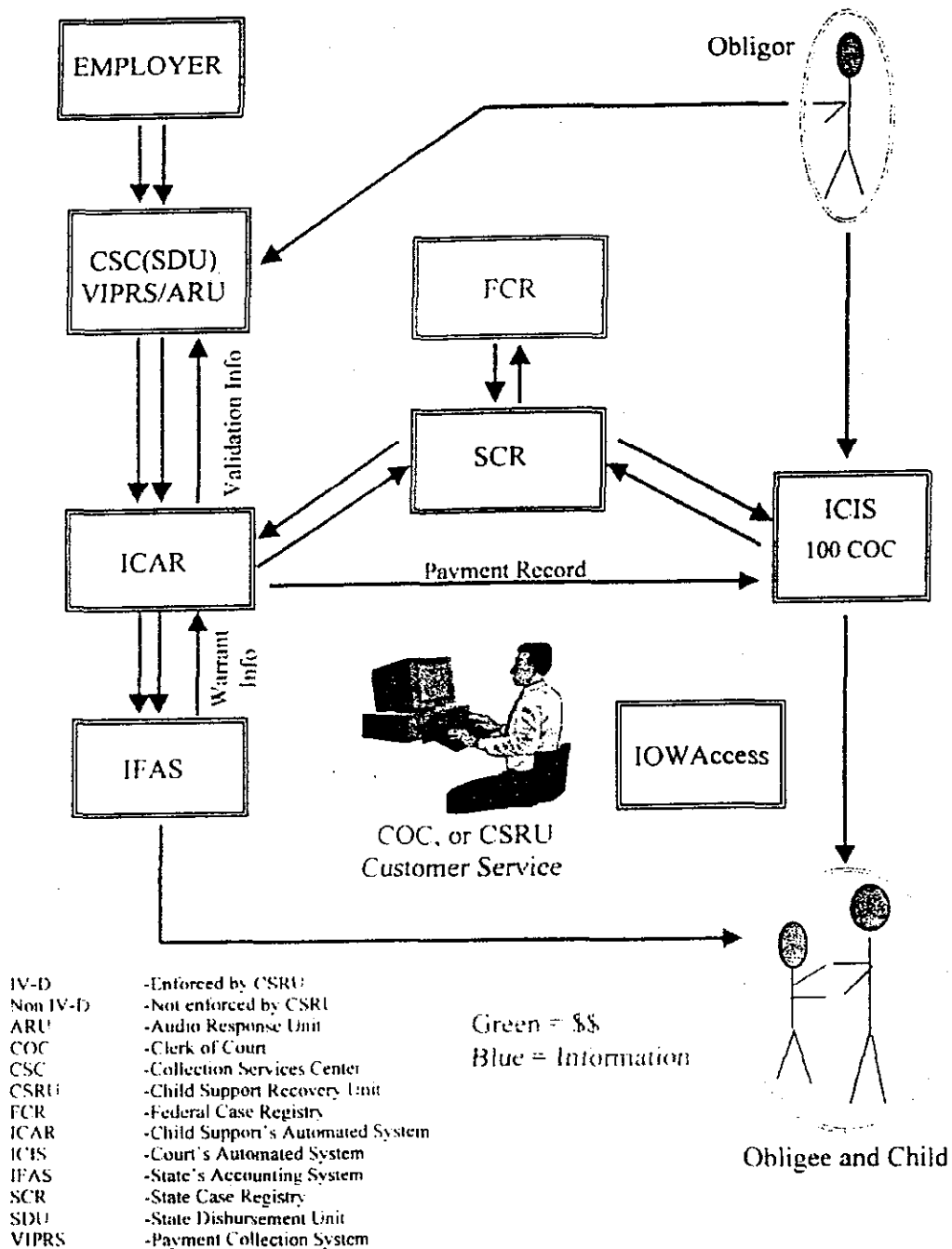
***Domestic Abuse Registry Interface**

The Domestic Abuse Registry is an interface project between the Judicial Branch and Department of Public Safety. The intent of this project is to provide the Department of Public Safety with civil, criminal, and juvenile domestic abuse case data and updates from across the state. The sharing of court information with the Department of Public Safety provides the state a statewide registry of the status of no contact orders for Iowa law enforcement agencies to review. The Department of Public Safety reports the no contact order information to the National Crime Information Center.

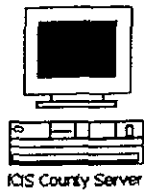
***Treasurer Interface**

The Treasure Interface project is an interface between the Judicial Branch and Department of Transportation (IDOT). The goal of the project is to electronically transfer delinquent court debt information to the IDOT as a centralized reference point for County Treasurers' personnel to review at the time an individual attempts to renew vehicle registrations.

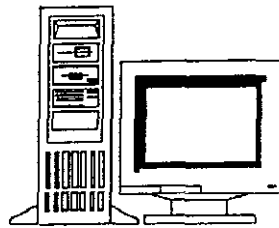
**Child Support Payment Processing with
State Case Registry (SCR), State Disbursement Unit (SDU),
Local Access, and Statewide Customer Service**



CASE CRIMINAL HISTORY (CCH)

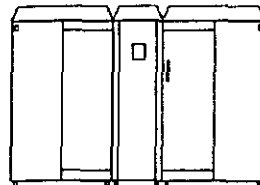


ICIS processes run overnight and pull newly entered charge disposition records. These records are pulled for Aggravated, Felony, Serious Misdemeanor, and OWI cases. Records are selected by case type and also by charge code. The disposition records are forwarded to the Des Moines ICIS office.



ICIS Des Moines Server

Once the records are received from all counties the ICIS processes aggregate all records into a single file. This file is transferred to the Iowa Department of Public Service (DPS).



Department of Public Service Mainframe

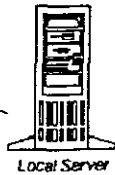
Once the records are received from ICIS each individual record is posted to the appropriate Criminal History Record.

Note: Data flow is from ICIS to DPS. Once DPS has identified records that are over a certain age a verification record will be sent to ICIS for verification of Outstanding Warrants or cases still in process in the court system.

ELECTRONIC CITATION COMPONENT (ECCO)

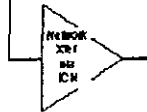


The officer writes a ticket on a laptop computer. At the end of the shift the tickets are transferred to the local server.



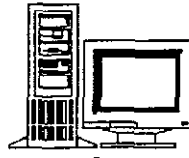
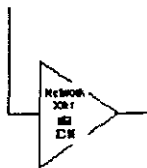
Local Server

The tickets from all officers are aggregated and forwarded to the Iowa Department of Public Safety (DPS) server.



DPS Server

Once the ticket files are on the DPS server they wait to be picked up by automated processes on the Des Moines ICIS system.



ICIS Server

After the ticket files are picked up by the ICIS system they are split and sent to the ICIS system in the county where they were written.

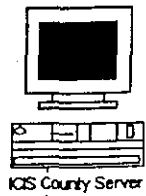


ICIS County Server

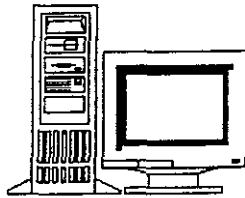
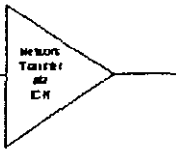
Once the tickets are received at the county they are inserted electronically into the county database.

Note: Dispositions from these electronic tickets are returned to the originating agency electronically via the Iowa System.

IOWA CONVICTION NOTIFICATION NETWORK (ICONN)

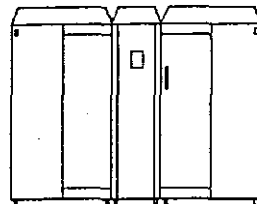
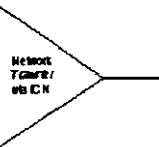


ICIS processes run overnight and pull traffic records which have **overdue fines / newly paid fines / convictions**. Each record is a **License Suspension, Suspension Withdrawal, or Conviction** record. These records are forwarded to the Des Moines ICIS office.



ICIS Des Moines Server

Once the records are received from all counties the ICIS processes aggregate all records into a single file. This file is transferred to the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT).

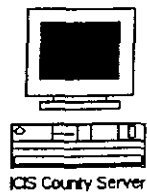


IDOT Mainframe

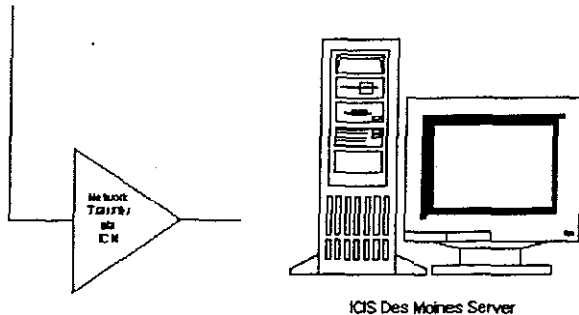
Once the records are received from ICIS each individual record is posted to the appropriate Driver License Record.

Note: Data flow is from ICIS to IDOT at this point. Currently working on an upgrade that will send an audit record back from IDOT to ICIS for record receipt verification.

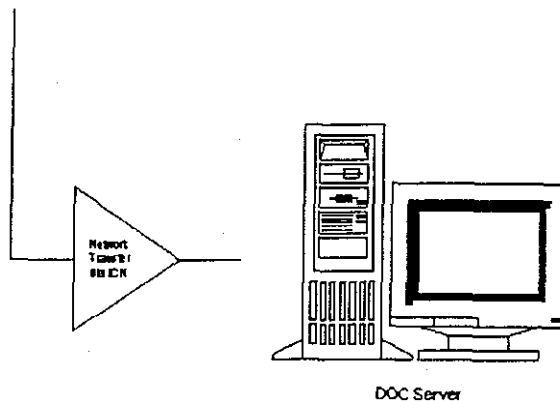
IOWA CORRECTIONS ONLINE (ICONLite)



ICIS processes run overnight and pull criminal case data and dispositions. These records are forwarded to the Des Moines ICIS office.



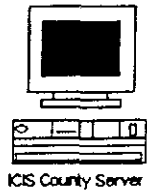
The records are transferred into a database at the Des Moines ICIS office where they are available to the Iowa Department of Corrections (DOC).



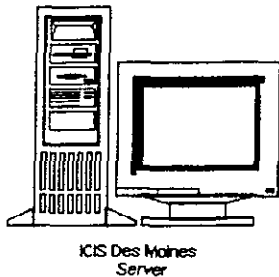
DOC processes automatically extract the new records and pull them for insertion into the DOC database.

Note: Data flow is only from ICIS to IDOC.

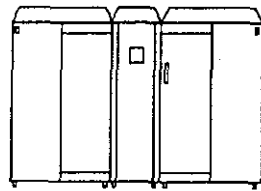
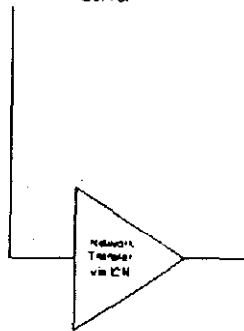
CENTRALIZED COLLECTIONS UNIT INTERFACE (CCU)



ICIS processes run and identify court cases which have delinquent fines, fees, other related court costs due to the State and victim restitution. A record for each debtor is generated. The records are forwarded to the Des Moines ICIS office.

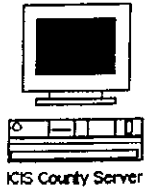


Once the records are received from all counties the ICIS processes aggregate all records into a single file. This file is transferred to the Department of Revenue and Finance (DRF) for collections.

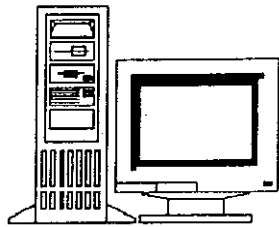


Once the DRF processes each debt record, the following specialized collection methods are implemented by the DRF to collect the delinquent debt obligations: skip tracing, letters of intent, and direct phone calls using an autodialing system. Debtors are permitted to make payments to the DRF and Clerks of Court.

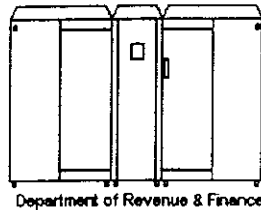
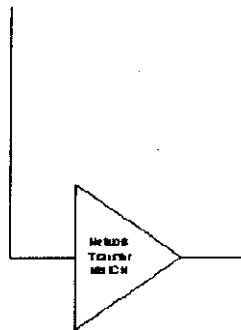
INCOME TAX OFFSET (ITO)



ICIS processes run on the 10th & 25th of each month January thru June and the 25th of the month July thru December. Cases which have monies due the State which are overdue are picked up. The records are forwarded to the Des Moines ICIS office.



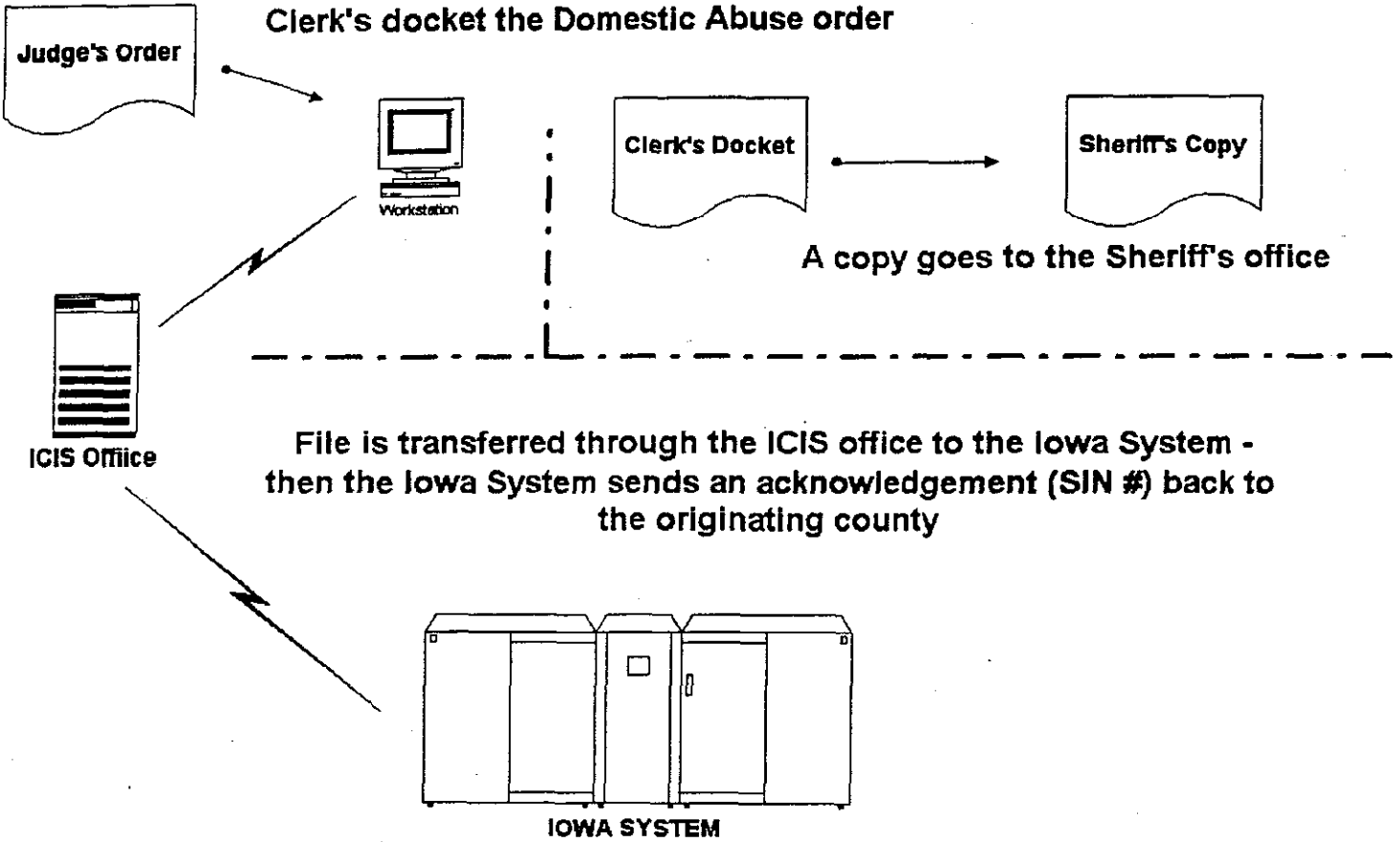
Once the records are received from all counties the ICIS processes aggregate all records into a single file. This file is transferred to the Iowa Department of Revenue (DRF).



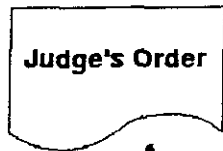
Once the records are received from ICIS they are compared against Income Tax Returns and if there are monies available they are used to pay the debt owed the State. Once DPS has identified Tax returns that can be used for payment the monies are forwarded to the county where the record was identified.

DOMESTIC ABUSE

The Judge Issues a Domestic Abuse order



DOMESTIC ABUSE - WEEKEND PROCESS



The judge issues an Emergency Domestic Abuse order

A copy is taken to the Sheriff's office

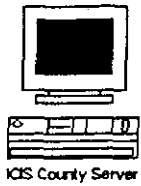


The Sheriff's office enters on their system which updates the Iowa System with a Temporary Order

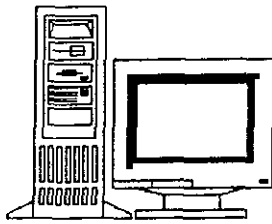
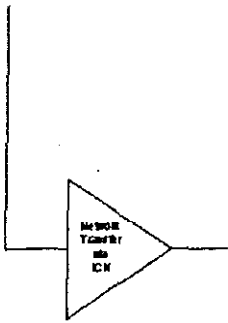
On the first business day after a weekend the Clerks will Docket the Domestic Abuse Order and the NEW PROCESS goes into effect with one exception.

Once the order from the Clerk transfers to the IOWA System, the ICIS record replaces the Sheriff's temporary record.

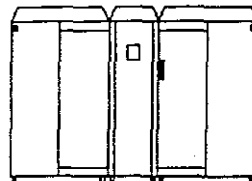
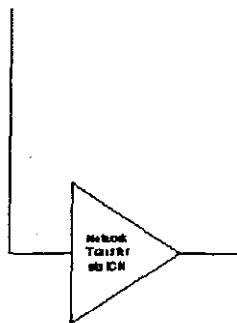
TREASURER'S INTERFACE (TI)



ICIS processes run and identify cases which have monies due the State which are overdue. A record per individual is generated. The records are forwarded to the Des Moines ICIS office.



Once the records are received from all counties the ICIS processes aggregate all records into a single file. This file is transferred to the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT).



Once the records are received from ICIS they are posted to the statewide system that Treasurer's offices reference as people renew their license plates. Those who owe debt are not allowed to renew their vehicle licenses until this debt is cleared.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA

FILED

MAR 20 1997

CLERK SUPREME COURT

IN THE MATTER OF THE)
HANDLING OF HOSPITAL)
COMMITMENT PROCEEDINGS.)

SUPERVISORY ORDER

In all cases in which an application for involuntary hospitalization of persons with mental illness under Iowa Code chapter 229 or an application for involuntary commitment or treatment of chronic substance abusers under Iowa Code chapter 125 is filed with the clerk of district court, the clerk must first ascertain whether a judge or a lawyer magistrate is accessible before notifying a judicial hospitalization referee. See Iowa Code § 229.21(2). Only if a judge or a lawyer magistrate is not accessible should the matter be referred to a referee.

Dated this 20 day of March, 1997.

THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA

By Arthur A. McGiverin
Arthur A. McGiverin, Chief Justice

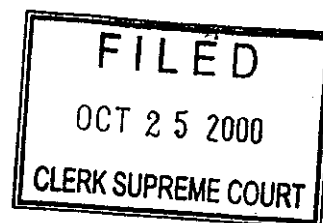
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209

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA

SUPERVISORY ORDER



IN THE MATTER OF FISCAL YEAR 2001
BUDGET POLICIES

The operating budget for the Iowa Judicial Branch for fiscal year 2001 is inadequate to fund the projected needs of statewide court operations. The \$2.4 million shortfall is due primarily to significant increases in the state's share of employee health insurance premiums that must be absorbed by the operating budget.

In order to balance its operating budget the Judicial Branch must reduce operating expenses. Pursuant to previous instructions from this Court, the judicial districts and the state court administrator's office significantly reduced operating expenses. In addition, the Court imposed a vacancy factor requiring that all districts, the appellate courts and state court administration significantly delay the filling of vacant staff positions. However, the Court finds that further action and guidance is necessary to balance the budget and provide court services in priority cases. The following policies are hereby adopted and ordered, effective immediately:

1. The maximum statewide expenditure on part-time hospitalization and probate referees for fiscal year 2001 is \$271,615. This amount was determined by allowing each judicial district credit for 40% of all hearings conducted by hospitalization referees in 1999 at the statewide average of \$80 per case. The allocation for probate referees represents 40% of actual expenditures in fiscal year 2000.

Based upon this formula, the total available for referees is allocated as follows: District One -- \$34,848; District Two -- \$38,400; District Three -- \$35,360; District Four -- \$27,232; District Five -- \$31,680; District Six -- \$51,839; District Seven -- \$23,904; and District Eight -- \$28,352. To the extent that any district is presently projecting to spend more on referees than this allocation would allow, the district must re-direct those amounts to other areas of their budget, giving priority to filling vacant staff positions. The districts are to assign probate, hospitalization and substance abuse cases to district court judges, district associate judges and lawyer-magistrates before non-priority cases.

2. The Court recognizes that the judicial branch must provide on-going training and education to maintain its highly skilled and well-educated staff. The administration of justice demands this. However, in view of the current budget crisis, all judicial branch education conferences are cancelled until further notice.

3. All committee travel funded by general fund money is cancelled until further notice unless otherwise approved by the state court administrator.

4. All out-of-state travel funded by general fund money is cancelled except for special circumstances approved by the state court administrator.

5. Court Rule 211 is suspended until further notice. Each judicial district is given discretion to reduce judicial travel otherwise mandated by the rule.

6. The chief judge of each district may curtail, to the extent deemed practical and necessary, the time during which the clerk of district court offices within the district are open to the public. The chief judge may reduce the public hours of a clerk of court office that is presently understaffed and has an unmanageable backlog of work. Although this action will not reduce operating expenses, it will provide offices with time to focus on reducing their backlogs.

7. The production of the new jury orientation video is on hold until further notice.

Although the idea of employee furloughs has been discussed, the Court unanimously decided against this action. The Court will continue to monitor the situation and will take action to restore normal operations as funds become available.

Dated this 24th day of October, 2000.

THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA

By Arthur A. McGiverin
Arthur A. McGiverin
Chief Justice

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